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TRADE IN ILLEGAL WILD SPECIES PEGGED AT $119 BN

Wild species represents the third largest class of all illegal trade, says a new report by the IPBES released on Friday

ONE IN FIVE PERSONS RELIES ON WILD SPECIES

Timber and fish make up the largest volumes and value of illegal trade in wild species, says the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its latest report on sustainable use of wild species. One in five persons relies on wild plants, algae and fungi for food and income while 2.4 billion people rely on fuel wood for cooking

1,341 WILD MAMMAL SPECIES IN DANGER

- The report says 12% of wild tree species and 1,341 wild mammal species are threatened by unsustainable logging and hunting
- Tourism linked to wild species is a big industry. Before the Covid pandemic, protected areas globally used to receive as many as eight billion tourists and generate $600 billion every year

70%

OF THE WORLD'S POOR ARE DIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON WILD SPECIES, IPBES SAYS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

13 DIE IN AMARNATH CLOUDBURST, 40 MISSING

Rescue operations underway after a cloudburst in the lower reaches of the Amarnath cave in Pahalgam swept away multiple tents and put pilgrims in grave danger, on Friday evening | AM

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AT least 13 people were killed and 40 others went missing on Friday after a massive cloudburst near the Amarnath cave shrine in J&K. It happened at a time when the annual pilgrimage was in full swing. The yatra has since been put on hold. Rescue operations were on at the time of going to press. Officials said many of those rescued were injured and were airlifted to hospitals.

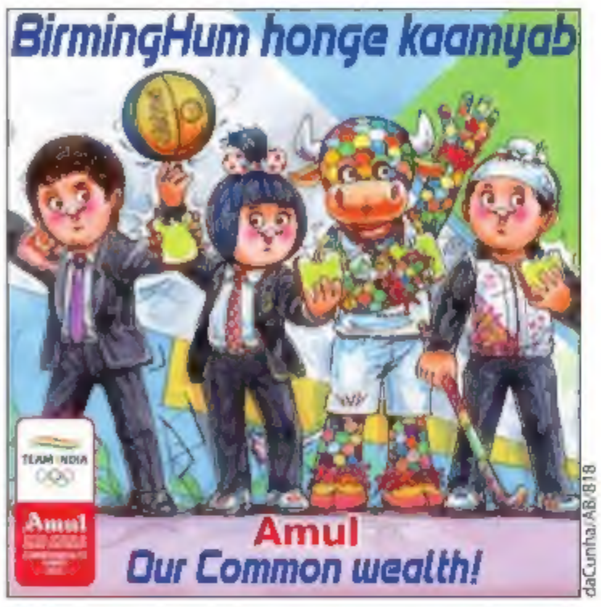
Army's ALH helicopters are part of the search and rescue operations. Officials, however, said operations at night could be hampered because of the difficult terrain, lack of light and bad weather conditions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured the administration of all help.

A paramilitary official said the cloudburst occurred around 5.30 pm near the Amarnath cave, where both yatra routes merge — the shortest one from Baltal and the traditional Pahalgam route. He said many *langars* (food courts) and other tents were washed away by the flash floods after the cloudburst. Pilgrims were in the *langars* and tents when the flash floods struck.

The NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police, CRPF, Army, BSF, ITBP, Amarnath shrine board and the civil administration are part of the rescue operations. The J&K Police deployed its mountain rescue teams.

Shri Amarnath Shrine Board CEO Nitishwar Kumar said a call on resuming of the yatra would be taking after inputs from the weather department.

Helplines have been activated to assist pilgrims. They are NDRF: 011-23438252, 011-23438253; Kashmir Divisional Helpline: 0194-2496240; Shrine Board Helpline: 0194-2313149.



ED slaps ₹52 cr fine on Amnesty, ₹10 cr on Aakar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate has slapped ₹51.72 crore penalty on Amnesty India International Pvt Ltd (AIIPL) and ₹10 crore on the organization's former CEO Aakar Patel for allegedly violating India's foreign exchange law. "The adjudicating authority of the Directorate of Enforcement has adjudicated a show-cause notice issued to AIIPL and its CEO for contravention of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999," the ED said on Friday.

A show-cause notice under FEMA is a declaration of completion of probe and a penalty is sought to be slapped against the accused. The order of the adjudicating authority, a special director rank ED officer, can be challenged in the HC.

Aakar Patel

According to the ED, London-based Amnesty International has been sending "huge amounts" of foreign contribution to its Indian entities using the FDI route to escape FCRA scrutiny. The funds were used to expand Amnesty's social activities in India despite the Union home ministry's denial of prior registrations or permission to the organization and its trusts under FCRA, the ED added. The show-cause notice says the remittance received by AIIPL between November 2013 and June 2018 and claimed as receipt for business consultancy and PR services is "nothing but amount borrowed from overseas remitter", which is a FEMA violation.

SC grants Zubair five-day interim bail | P9

Abe assassinated

Former navy personnel pulls the trigger of makeshift gun, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JAPAN'S powerful former prime minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated on Friday by a lone gunman who shot him from behind as he delivered a campaign speech ahead of parliamentary elections. That it happened in a nation with the strictest of gun control laws added to the global horror over the murder.

Abe, 67, collapsed and was airlifted to a nearby hospital in Nara. He was pronounced dead after receiving over 100 units of blood in transfusion for over four hours. The hospital said he suffered major damage to his heart, along with two neck wounds that damaged an artery.

Abe was Japan's longest-serving leader when he resigned in 2020 following multiple ailments. Though out of office, Abe headed its largest faction, Seiwakai, in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

That the assassin managed to get close to Abe before pulling the trigger, despite the former PM being accorded the highest security cover, told a tale of how porus the arrangement actually was.

Assailant Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, a former member of Japan's navy, was nabbed with a homemade 40 cm long gun. The police later seized similar weapons and his computer from one-room apartment. Yamagami confessed he had plotted the murder because he thought Abe was tied to an unnamed outfit he bore a grudge against. It was not a political murder.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called the attack dastardly and barbaric, while resolving to let the Sunday elections go ahead. The polls will choose members for Japan's upper house.

Abe hailed from a political family. His grandfather was former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi. At 52, Abe became Japan's youngest prime minister in 2006. In his second stint, he formulated what was called Abenomics, which combines fiscal stimulus, monetary easing and reforms to to pull the country out of deflation. PTI

GOT INDIA INTO QUAD

To a large extent, India owes it to Abe for its inclusion in the four-nation Quad aimed at reining in China | P9

FACE OF TIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him a dear friend and said he will always be the face of India-Japan ties. India observed a day's mourning

1) Former prime minister Shinzo Abe collapses after being gunned down. 2) Assassin Tetsuya Yamagami with his homemade gun. 3) Yamagami pinned down by police | AP

EXPRESS READ

541 pvt PU colleges have zero admissions

Bengaluru: The education dept has revealed that 541 private PU colleges in Karnataka have recorded zero admissions in past 3 years. Of these, 166 colleges are in Bengaluru district. The colleges will be given renewal of permission for admissions this year, considering the pandemic situation |P2

Fake call centre busted, items worth ₹2 cr seized

Bengaluru: A city-based fake international cyber call centre was busted and 11 people have been arrested. Police also detained 61 employees which include 30 women. Items worth ₹2 crore including 127 desktops, 3 high-end cars, 2 school vans, one tempo traveller and ₹18L in cash have been seized | P3

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 7	15,19,612 doses
July 8	10,74,543 doses

TOTALS AND AS ON JULY 8

KARNATAKA	JULY 7	JULY 8	KARNATAKA	JULY 7	JULY 8
Fresh cases	18,930	18,815	Fresh cases	1,053	1,037
Recoveries	14,650	15,099	Recoveries	1,000	984
Deaths	35	38	Deaths	0	1

Rain fury: K'taka saw 12 deaths in 1 month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA witnessed 12 deaths due to heavy rain across the state in the last one month, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday. In the wake of the Met department's forecast of heavy rain for the next three to four days, Bommai said he has directed officials to take precautionary measures.

On Friday, the CM took part in a meeting through video conference with 13 deputy commissioners (DCs) and district in-charge ministers from rain-affected districts. Later speaking to reporters, the CM said that in the last three to four days, heavy rain recorded in many parts of the state was above normal. During the last one month, there have been reports of loss of human lives and animals besides crops and infrastructure at various places. As many as 17 taluks from 13 districts have been affected. "Twelve people and 65 animals died," he said.

Authorities concerned have been directed to take up repair work immediately and restore transport and communication in the affected areas. Wherever landslides have taken place, immediate measures will be taken up to clear the roads and people residing in nearby places should be evacuated to nearest safe locations. "A task force will be working on it", he added.

Bommai said in cases of damage of houses, an immediate compensation of Rs 10,000 will be paid. "Zilla Panchayat engineers will inspect the houses and assess the damage following which compensation will be paid according to the extent of damage which has been classified into A, B and C categories," he said. **CONTINUED ON: P5**

Karnataka has potential to expand irrigation to 10 lakh hectares: Karjol

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

IRRIGATION Minister Govind Karjol said on Friday that Karnataka has the potential to expand irrigation to more than 10 lakh hectares of land and reiterated that the state government was firm on implementing the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project despite objection from neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Accusing Tamil Nadu of coming in the way of Karnataka's irrigation projects by not sharing water, he said Karnataka has earmarked Rs 1,000 crore in the budget for Mekedatu project, Rs 5,000 crore for Upper Krishna Project and Rs 3,000 crore for the Yettinahole project.

Speaking after inaugurating a workshop on implementation of an emergency action plan for KRS, Kabini, Harangi and Chikkahole dams here, he stressed on people's participation in conservation of water and preservation of water bodies.

Karjol said there are 231 major and minor irrigation dams across the state through which 2,810 cusecs of water has been generated for irrigation on more than 30 lakh hectares of land which can be further expanded to 10 lakh hectares. The state has 64 lakh hectares of agricultural land and increase in irrigation area would empower the farming community and further contribute to food production. Lauding the erstwhile Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar of Mysuru royal family for constructing the Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir that has given a boost to irrigation in the region and also fulfilled drinking water needs of the people, he said that the government has in phases replaced sluice gates and the process will be completed soon that would put an end to wastage of water. **CONTINUED ON: P4**

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